

USS Constitution - Frigate



Vessel History

USS Constitution – Frigate Old Ironsides

Vessel Name: USS Constitution
Class: 44-gun frigate
Hull: Wood
Masts: 3 - 198' foremast, 220' mainmast, 172.5' mizzenmast - see below.
Designed by: Humphreys - Joshua Humphreys (1751-1838)
Build date: 1794-1797
Launched: October 21, 1797
Built by: Edmund Hartt's Shipyard
Built at: Boston, Massachusetts on a slip laid for the purpose in the North End of Boston, approximately at the eastern end of the present day Coast Guard Base.
Built for: United States Navy
Named for: Constitution of the United States - named by George Washington
Tonnage: 1,576
Displacement: 2,200
Length: 204' 175' at waterline
Beam: 43'6"
Depth of hold: 14'3"
Draught: 21' forward; 23' aft
Decks: Orlop, Berth, Gun, Spar
Sail area: 42,710 sq ft on 3 masts
Crew: 450 including 55 Marines & 30 boys
NRHP: 6600789

1884: "A resident of Belfast, Maine, declares that within one hundred rods of his house there is a stump from which was cut one of the masts of the frigate Constitution. The stump is almost obliterated. It was pointed out to the resident, who is now eighty-five years of age, by his father. The father saw the tree cut. Another tree had been selected for the mast, but it was lodged and broke while being floated down to tide-water." - Harper's Weekly, February 2, 1884, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1415, p. 75.

Disposition: See the USS Constitution Museum, Charlestown Navy Yard, Building 22, Boston, Massachusetts. The vessel is berthed in Boston Naval Shipyard (Boston National Historical Park), on the south side of Chelsea St. in the Charlestown area of Boston. It is operated and maintained by the U.S. Navy in cooperation with the National Park Service. Constitution is at the pier closest to Constitution Road and 3rd Street.

"USS Constitution is a wooden-hulled, three-masted heavy frigate of the United States Navy. Named by President George Washington after the Constitution of the United States of America, she is the world's oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat. Launched in 1797, Constitution was one of six

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Title: USS Constitution - Frigate

Type: Reference

Subject: Vessels, Naval Vessel, Warship, Frigate

Description: In the War of 1812, during the British blockade of the east coast, two British frigates, HMS Junon and HMS Tenedos, chased the USS Constitution into Marblehead Harbor and the safety of Fort Sewall.

"When the USS Constitution, 'Old Ironsides,' was preparing for its 200th anniversary in 1997, the crew from Ralph W. Stanley was called in to help determine if it was seaworthy. So Ralph, Richard and his brother-in-law, Tim Goodwin, went to Boston to conduct a survey of the old warship.

'I went all over that ship,' Richard Stanley said. 'She was really in good shape. She could have sailed.'

They made some suggestions, although he said he didn't know what the Navy did with the ship. It did sail again, he added." - from 'Stanley Boat Leaving Southwest Harbor' by Rich Hewitt, Bangor Daily News, August 24, 2009.

July 1997, in honor of the 200th anniversary of USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides," commissioning, Capt. William Harland Kelley was chosen to sail the famous 204', 3-masted wooden frigate out of Boston, into Marblehead Harbor and back to

Boston. This was her first independent sail in 116 years.

Address: Charlestown Navy Yard

Place: Boston MA, Charleston

State: MA

Country: USA

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